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**Project Proposal : INCITS 378: American National Standard for  
Information Technology - Finger Minutiae Format for Data  
Interchange – Revision 1**

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**M1/07-0014**

**Project Proposal**

INCITS 378: American National Standard for Information Technology -Finger Minutiae Format for Data Interchange - **Revision 1**

**1. Source of the Proposed Project**

**1.1 Title**

INCITS 378: American National Standard for Information Technology - Finger Minutiae Format for Data Interchange - **Revision**

**1.2 Date Submitted**

January 4, 2007

**1.3 Proposer(s)**

INCITS Technical Committee M1, Biometrics

**2. Process Description for the Proposed Project**

**2.1 Project Type (Development or Revision)**

R - This is a standard revision project.

**2.2 Type of Document**

This project is expected to result in a revision to INCITS 378-2004.

**2.3 Definitions of Concepts and Special Terms**

No new concepts or special terms are anticipated to be required by this project.

**2.4 Expected Relationship with Approved Reference Models, Frameworks, Architectures, etc.**

None.

**2.5 Recommended INCITS Development Technical Committee**

INCITS Technical Committee M1, Biometrics

**2.6 Anticipated Frequency and Duration of Meetings**

It is anticipated that this project would require one-day meetings approximately quarterly.

**2.7 Target Date for Initial Public Review (Milestone 4)**

The estimated date for initial public review is ~~April~~ **2007**.

**2.8 Estimated Useful Life of the Amended Standard**

There is no known limit to the useful life of this amendment.

### **3. Business Case for Developing the Proposed Standard or Technical Report**

#### **3.1 Description**

Implementers working with INCITS 378-2004 have raised concerns that it is not sufficiently precise regarding its conformance requirements. One objective of this project will be to evaluate such concerns and develop revisions in the standard that will resolve them.

Test results of initial interoperability of biometric data that conforms to INCITS 378-2004 have suggested that the degree of interoperability may, at least in certain situations, be less than was intended by the original standard. A second objective of this project will be to evaluate such test results and to possibly develop technical changes that may result in higher levels of interoperability.

#### **3.2 Existing Practice and the Need for a Standard**

The original project proposal for project 1564-D provided the justification for the subject standard. Real world experience working with the resulting standard have raised some concerns that the standard's goal of high degree of interoperability for finger minutiae biometric data may better be reached if interpretive and technical changes to the standard can be carefully considered under a **revision** of the original standard.

An amendment project for INCITS 378 is now underway within INCITS M1.3. However, the work has revealed that the end product will be more easily incorporated as a revision to INCITS 378 rather than a separate amendment project. The work that has been done towards an amendment will form the basis of the proposed revision.

#### **3.3 Implementation Impacts of the Proposed Standard**

##### **3.3.1 Development Costs**

Development costs for this project are expected to be low, and to be covered by the participating organizations. Project meetings will normally take place in conjunction with regularly scheduled M1 Task Group meetings or via conference calls. It is not expected that the amendment document will be larger than the original standard.

##### **3.3.2 Impact on Existing or Potential Markets**

The relatively modest costs of this project are expected to result in major benefits as the enhanced standardization of minutiae data records leads to measurable improvements in inter-vendor and inter-system interoperability of such data.

##### **3.3.3 Costs and Methods for Conformity Assessment**

This revision should provide a stronger basis for the development of uniform, internationally recognized, interoperability and conformance tests. The willingness of vendors and end-users to jointly define testing requirements is demonstrated by strong activity and support for performance test development within Technical Committee M1.

The possible testing environment may range from the use of suppliers' declarations to third party testing. Therefore the cost of conformity assessment is not known at this time.

##### **3.3.4 Return on Investment**

There is no known data on which to make an estimate.

### **3.4 Legal Considerations**

#### **3.4.1 Patent Assertions**

Calls will be made to identify assertions of patent rights in accordance with the relevant INCITS and ANSI policies and procedures. INCITS/M1 is not aware of any existing, relevant patent claims. Calls for patent assertions were made at the time of the approval of the amendment project (in early 2005) and no responses were received.

#### **3.4.2 Dissemination of the Standard or Technical Report**

Drafts of the **revised** standard will be disseminated electronically. Dissemination of the final standard will be restricted as the document becomes the property of INCITS. INCITS M1 is not aware of any IP issues that will inhibit this process.

## **4. Related Standards Activities**

### **4.1 Existing Standards**

1. INCITS 378, American National Standard for Information Technology –Finger Minutiae Format for Data Interchange (the subject of this amendment project).
2. ISO/IEC 19794-2, Information Technology - Biometric Data Interchange Formats - Part 2: Finger Minutiae Data

### **4.2 Related Standards Activity**

1. NIST MINEX 2004 (minutiae interoperability exchange test 2004)
2. INCITS project 1704-D: Information technology. Conformance Testing for ANSI INCITS 378-2004, Finger Minutia Format for Data Interchange (under development in INCITS M1)

### **4.3 Recommendations for Close Liaison**

none

## **5. Units of Measurement used in the Standard**

Indicate units of measurement used in the Standard:

- International Systems of Units (SI)
- Inch/Pound
- Both
- Other
- Not Measurement Sensitive